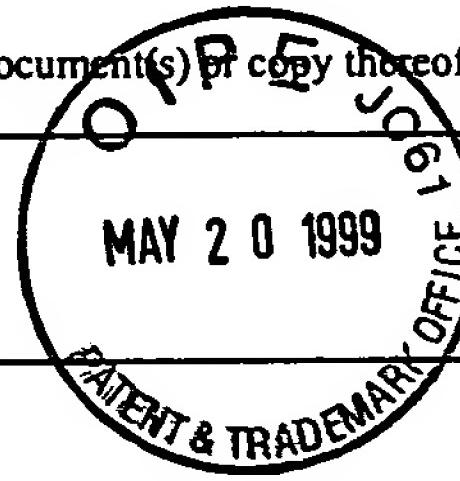


**RECORDATION FORM COVER SHEET  
PATENTS ONLY**

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original document(s) or copy thereof.



1. Name of conveying party(ies) (assignor(s)):  
Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada As Represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?  yes  no

2. Name and Address of Party(ies) receiving an interest (assignee(s)):

Name: Novus International, Inc.

Address: 530 Maryville Center Drive, Inc.

City: St. Louis, Missouri

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: 63141

Country: USA

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached?  yes  no

3. Nature of Conveyance:

Assignment  Merger  Change of Name

Verified Translation  Security Agreement  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Execution Date: May 12, 1999

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date(s) of the application is: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Patent Application No(s).

08/900,414

B. Patent No(s).

Others on additional sheet(s) attached?  Yes  No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Edward J. Hejlek, Reg. No. 31,525  
Senniger, Powers, Leavitt & Roedel  
One Metropolitan Square  
16th Floor  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102  
(314) 231-5400 (telephone)

6. Total number of applications and patents involved:

Application(s) 1 + Patent(s): 0 = Total 1

7. Total Fee (37 CFR 3.41) ..... \$ 40.00

Enclosed

Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit Account Number: 19-1345

(Duplicate copy of this sheet attached)

Charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to above Deposit Account

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Edward J. Hejlek

Name of Person Signing

Signature

Date

5/12/99

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document:

**COPY**

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA AS  
REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD  
(hereinafter referred to as "ASSIGNOR") owns rights in a United  
States patent filed July 25, 1997 and issued Serial No.  
08/900,414;

AND, WHEREAS, Novus International, Inc. of St. Louis,  
Missouri, a corporation of the State of Delaware (hereinafter  
referred to as "NOVUS") is desirous of acquiring certain rights  
thereunder;

NOW, THEREFORE, for one dollar and other good and valuable  
consideration, receipt of all of which is hereby acknowledged,  
the ASSIGNOR agrees to and does hereby sell, assign and transfer  
unto NOVUS its entire right, title and interest in and throughout  
the United States of America (including its territories and  
dependencies) and all countries foreign thereto in and to said  
invention, said United States application, any other United  
States applications (including divisional, continuing or reissue  
applications) based in whole or in part on said United States  
application or in whole or in part on said invention, any foreign  
applications based in whole or in part on any of the aforesaid  
United States application or in whole or in part on said  
invention, and any and all patents (including extensions thereof)  
of any country which have been or may be granted on any of the  
aforesaid applications or on said invention or any part thereof;

TO BE HELD AND ENJOYED by NOVUS, its successors and assigns,  
as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and

enjoyed by the ASSIGNOR had no sale and assignment of said interest been made;

**AND THE ASSIGNEE** hereby authorizes and requests the Commissioner of Patents of the United States of America to issue any and all United States patents which may be granted upon said United States applications or any of them, or upon said invention or any part thereof, to NOVUS;

**AND THE ASSIGNEE** hereby agrees for itself and for its respective heirs, executors and administrators, to execute without further consideration any further lawful documents and any further assurances, and any divisional, continuing, reissue, or other applications for patents of any country, that may be deemed necessary by NOVUS fully to secure to NOVUS its interest as aforesaid in and to said invention or any part thereof, and in and to said several patents or any of them;

**AND THE ASSIGNEE** hereby covenants for itself and its respective legal representatives that it has granted no right or license to make, use or sell said invention, to anyone except NOVUS, that prior to the execution of this deed its right, title and interest in said invention had not been otherwise encumbered, and that it has not executed and will not execute any instrument in conflict herewith.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA  
AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD

12 May 99  
Date

P A Burnett  
Name

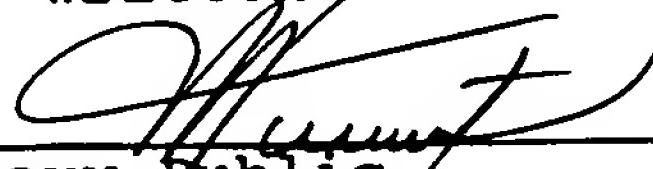
Acting Director  
Title

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA )  
COUNTY OF LETHBRIDGE )

On this 12th day of May, <sup>1999</sup> before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Peter A. MURKETT to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing assignment and acknowledged that he executed same as his free act and deed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the date and year last above written.

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

31 Dec 1999